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PRECIOUS STONES IN INDUSTRY

Enor T.A. Vredenskiv

While the cost of a diamond cutter is about 200 rubles, its useful life can be hundreds of times as long as that of the much cheaper conventional steel cutter.

At present, up to 40 percent of all industrial diamonds go into the manufacture of stones for truing grinding wheels.

About 20 percent of Soviet industrial diamonds go into the manufacture of diamond dies for drawing fine wire. Soviet wire makers can now draw wires as fine as 0.01 millimeter. Such dies are of particular value to the electrical indus bry.

Bearing stones for the watch industry and the precision instruments industry are made by the "Russkiye sametevety" Trust. Both natural and artificial rubies and saphires are used.

Rubies are mined in the Urals. For industrial purposes, however, it is considerably less expensive to use synthetic stones, which differ in quality only slightly from the natural ruby.

Agate is mined in the Transcaucacus, Transbaykal, Crimean, Altay, Kazakhstan, Yakut and Karelian regions! Agate goes into knife edges for precision laboratory balances, into spindle bearings for high-speed spinning machines, into watch bearings, and into thrust bearings for precision instruments. The tanning industry also uses agate as an agent for polishing leather.

The USSR has the largest jasper deposits in the world. The industrial uses of jasper are similar to those of agate.

The first dismond cutting factory in Russia was built in Petergof by Peter I in 1725. The work of this factory has been world famous ever since. The diamond-cutting factories of Sverdlovsk are also well known. Diamonds are found in the Urals and in the Yenissi River region.

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